



FACT SHEET

Flu Vaccine Supply—2003-04 Season

The strong consumer demand for influenza vaccine this year will likely exceed the consumer demand seen in previous flu seasons. Some healthcare providers have used—or may use—all of their supplies of influenza vaccine. In past years, supply has generally been sufficient to meet demand. This year, however, a strong demand has continued for longer than usual into the month of December. At a time when flu vaccination clinics are typically winding down, people are still seeking vaccination.

How much vaccine was made for the 2003-04 season?

This year, manufacturers produced about 87.1 million doses of influenza vaccine; most of these doses have been distributed to healthcare facilities. About 4 million of those are in the form of the nasal-spray flu vaccine (FluMist). (FluMist is for use in healthy people between the ages of 5 and 49.)

Are we running out of influenza vaccine?

CDC is in communication with states and healthcare providers to estimate available flu vaccine. Some areas of some states have extra amounts of vaccine; in other areas, vaccine supplies are scarce. CDC is working with state health departments to redistribute vaccine wherever possible.

What is CDC doing to assess the vaccine supply?

CDC is working with state and local health departments as well as the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American Association of Health Plans, managed care organizations, and several other groups to assess supply. All are working together to determine what can be done to redistribute doses to areas in need.

What is CDC doing to help address vaccine supply this year?

CDC is exploring every opportunity to obtain doses of influenza vaccine. CDC is working with manufacturers in the U.S., as well as abroad.

How do I find vaccine?

Call your local or state health department for more information. A listing of health departments can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/other.htm#states#states>.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/flu, or call the National Immunization Hotline at (800) 232-2522 (English), (800) 232-0233 (español), or (800) 243-7889 (TTY).